

15 39. [Amended] The stent of claim <sup>12</sup>36, wherein the plurality of cylindrical elements includes a [first cylindrical element, a second cylindrical element and so on up to an N] preselected number N of cylindrical elements forming N-1 pairs of adjacent cylindrical elements.

16 40. [Amended] The stent of claim <sup>15</sup>39, wherein [a first weld connection attaches the first] each pair of adjacent cylindrical elements [to the second cylindrical element, a second weld connection attaches the second cylindrical element to the third cylindrical element, and so on to the Nth cylindrical element] are attached to one another by one of N-1 adjacent weld connections.

17 41. [Amended] The stent of claim <sup>16</sup>40, wherein [the first] each weld connection is circumferentially offset from the [second] adjacent weld connections [, the second weld connection is circumferentially offset from the third weld connection, and so on for each of the N cylindrical elements attached by weld connections].

#### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 25-42 are pending in the application and have been rejected. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, claims 2-42 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, claims 25 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and claims 39-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, for the reasons set forth below, and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.